Indian remote sensing satellites IRS-1C and IRS-1D to stem the loss of rich bioligical wealth of the country which is being exploited by multinational firms for pharmaceutical and medicinal purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAIR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology in collaboration with the Department of Space has initiated a multi-institutional programme on "Bioprospecting of Biological Wealth using Biotechnological tools." The other institutions involved are: Indian Instt. of Science, Bangalore; National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; Delhi University, Delhi; G.B. Pant Univ. of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar; Central Instt. of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow, Instt. of Himalayan Bioresource Technology Palampur, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi; Guwahati University, Guwahati; G.B. Pant Instt. of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi, Katarmal; Y.S. Pamar Univ. Solan; Botanical Survey of India, Pune and Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Instt., Thiruvananthapuram. The main objective of this programme is conservation and characterisation of biodiversity deploying biotechnological tools. One of the objectives of this programme is also characterisation of the biological diversity of the North Eastern Himalayas and Southern Western Ghats using remotely sensed data from satellite. Satellite data products of IRS-IB/C/D LISS III are being used for prepaning Ecological zone maps, Landscaps characterization to establish disturbance gradient using Geographic Information System and to prioritize the phytogeographically important sites, their spatial extent and risk. This would help in the survey, identfication and characterization of Biodiversity of the region which includes a large number of medicinal plant species. A proper cataloguing of the endangered species would thus be possible.

12.01 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Notifications of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs).

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Indian Formers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the Working of the above Corporation.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

[Placed in Library. For (1) and (2) *See* No. LT-552/98].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) S.O. 555(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding the S.O. 2232 dated 13.9.60 Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce and Industry relating to Cinema Carbon.

(ii) S.O. 556(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding the S.O. 84 dated 5.1.67 of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce relating to PVC Resins and Synthetic Rubber.

(iii) S.O. 557(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding the S.O. 1931 dated 21.6.66 of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce relating to Ferro-Silicon, Ferro-Managanese, Ferro Chrome, Ferro-Molybdenum, Ferro Tungsten, Ferro Managnes, Ferro Vanadium, Ferro Phosphorus, Ferro Titadium and Ferro scrap containing more than:

(a) 0.50% Nickle or

(b) 0.20% Molybdemum or

(c) 1.00% Tungsten or

(d) 0.20% Vandadium or

(e) 1.00% Cobalt

(iv) S.O. 558(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding S.O. 3218 dated 19.10.62 of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce and Industry relating to Textile Machinery.

(v) S.O. 559(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding S.O. 689 dated 16.3.63 of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Commerce and Industry relating to Woolcombing Industry and Woolen.

(vi) S.O. 560(E), dated August 5, 1997, rescinding S.O. 3395 dated 29.11.63 of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of International Trade relating to :

(a) Wrap knitting machines including rashel kniting machines worked by power;

(b) Embroidery Machines, other than sewing type embroidery machines worked by power and used for decorating the textiles fabrics with designs formed with any type of thread by the help of needles;

(c) lace making machines worked by power and used for production of fabrics of open mesh or net formed by crossing interswitching thread; and

(d) machiens worked by power and used for printing of cloth by means of engraved rollers of screens.

(vii) S.O. 561(E), dated August 5, 1997, declaring certian items of texitle Machinery as essential commodities.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (vii) *See* No. LT-774/98].

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Twenty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Cooperative.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. For (i) to (iii) *See* No. LT-283/98].

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Central Electronics Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi and related papers.

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (डा॰ मुरली मनोहर जोशी): सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूं:—

I. कंपनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 619क की उपधारा (1) के अधीन निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में):—

(क) 1996-97 के वर्ष के लिए सेंट्रल इलेक्ट्रोनिक्स लिमिटेड, नई दिल्ली का तेइसवां वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन, और लेखे, लेखाओं पर लेखापरीक्षकों के प्रतिवेदन और उस पर भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक की टिप्पणियां सहित।